

Shipping from China to Cairo

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1. [Home](#)
2. [Destinations](#)
3. [Egypt](#)
4. Cairo

Africa

China → Cairo · via CAI air / Alexandria sea · clearance by Egyptian Customs Authority



Cargo handling on the China–Cairo lane.

Cairo is capital and the largest market in the Arab world, and it is served through CAI air / Alexandria sea. That combination is what actually sets your delivery date on this lane — allow +1 day for the inland leg on top of clearance.

On the destination side, Egyptian Customs Authority handles clearance; budget 7–15 days of dwell before the cargo is released.

Duty, tax and clearance into Cairo

Egyptian Customs Authority assesses duty and tax on cargo arriving for Cairo consignees. Current regime: VAT 14%; duty 0–60% depending on commodity, plus development fees on some categories, with a de-minimis position of No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo.

Conformity is the part most first-time importers underestimate: ACID number issued through the Nafeza single window before shipment — mandatory; GOEIC registration of the foreign factory for many consumer goods. Getting this wrong is expensive because it usually cannot be fixed after the cargo has landed.

Restrictions and known friction points for Egypt: ACID/Nafeza registration must be completed pre-shipment — this is the single most common cause of rejected cargo. GOEIC registration of the exporting factory is required for a long list of consumer goods. Letters of credit are required for many commercial imports.

What the routing looks like in practice

Egypt's Advance Cargo Information system is the decisive requirement on this lane: the importer must obtain an ACID number through Nafeza and the exporter must reference it on the shipping documents before the goods leave China. Cargo arriving without a valid ACID is refused entry. On top of that, GOEIC factory registration is required for many consumer categories and takes months to obtain.

Air gateways used	CAI (Cairo), HRG (Hurghada), ALY (Alexandria)
Air transit, China to gateway	4-7 business days
Sea gateways used	Alexandria, Damietta, Port Said
Sea transit, China to gateway	20-28 calendar days
Gateway serving Cairo	CAI air / Alexandria sea
Inland leg to Cairo	+1 day from the gateway
Typical clearance / dwell	7-15 days
Peak season to plan around	Sep-Nov



Handling on the CAI air / Alexandria sea routing serving Cairo.

Before you book: Cairo checklist

- Ask for the HS code in writing from your supplier and verify the Egypt duty rate against it yourself.
- Get the conformity paperwork moving early: ACID number issued through the Nafeza single window before shipment — mandatory; GOEIC registration of the foreign factory for many consumer goods.
- Check the de-minimis position (No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo) against your invoice value before you decide how to split the shipment.
- Declare lithium batteries, magnets, liquids and powders up front — retro-declaring after booking usually means re-planning the whole shipment.
- Book earlier than the transit time suggests during Sep–Nov, when space on this lane tightens.
- Put the Cairo delivery address, contact name and phone number on the invoice, not just the packing list.

Air, sea or overland into Cairo?

Mode	Transit to gateway	Best suited to
→ Air Freight	4–7 business days	time-critical, high-value and low-volume cargo
□ Sea Freight	20–28 calendar days	volume cargo where cost per kilo matters more than speed

Transit shown is China departure to the Egypt gateway and excludes the +1 day inland leg to Cairo and 7–15 days of clearance.

Mode guides for Cairo

- [➔ Air Freight to Cairo](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight to Cairo](#)

Frequently asked questions

How long does shipping from China to Cairo take?

China to the Egypt gateway is 4–7 business days by air, 20–28 calendar days by sea. On top of that, allow 7–15 days of clearance with Egyptian Customs Authority and a +1 day inland leg to Cairo.

What duty and tax will I pay importing into Cairo?

Egyptian Customs Authority applies: VAT 14%; duty 0–60% depending on commodity, plus development fees on some categories. The de-minimis position is No practical de-minimis for commercial cargo. Under a DDP arrangement these are pre-paid, so nothing is collected on arrival in Cairo.

What certification do I need for Egypt?

For regulated goods, plan for: ACID number issued through the Nafeza single window before shipment — mandatory; GOEIC registration of the foreign factory for many consumer goods. Missing conformity paperwork is the single most common cause of a hold, and in most cases it cannot be remedied once the cargo has arrived.

Can you ship batteries or sensitive cargo to Cairo?

Yes. Battery cargo by air follows IATA PI 965–970 depending on how the cells are packed, and moves on certified channels via CAI (Cairo), HRG (Hurghada), ALY (Alexandria). Surcharges apply and the declaration has to be made before booking.

Which port or airport does cargo for Cairo clear through?

Cargo for Cairo is routed via CAI air / Alexandria sea. Sea gateways for Egypt are Alexandria, Damietta, Port Said; air gateways are CAI (Cairo), HRG (Hurghada), ALY (Alexandria). We pick whichever gives the shortest total door time for your address.

How is the chargeable weight calculated for Cairo?

We compare actual gross weight against volumetric weight — length × width × height in centimeters divided by 6000 for air — and bill the greater of the two, rounded up to the next kilogram. Light, bulky cargo is almost always billed on volume.

Other delivery cities in Egypt

- [China to Giza](#)
- [China to Alexandria](#)
- [China to Port Said](#)
- [China to Sixth of October City](#)
- [China to Suez](#)
- [China to Mansoura](#)

- [China to Ismailia](#)

[All Egypt freight information →](#)

References & official sources

Duty rates, thresholds and conformity requirements for Egypt change by ministerial decision, sometimes mid-year. The figures on this page are buyer-planning references, not a customs ruling — confirm the current position for your own HS code with Egyptian Customs Authority or your broker before you ship.

- [Egyptian Customs Authority](#)
- [Nafeza single window \(ACID registration\)](#)
- [WTO — Tariff Profiles \(applied MFN duty by country\)](#)
- [IATA — Lithium battery shipping guidance \(PI 965–970\)](#)
- [World Bank — Logistics Performance Index](#)
- [ICC — Incoterms 2020 rules \(DDP, DAP, FOB definitions\)](#)

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Shipping by industry

This page covers the route and clearance picture for the destination. Packing, classification and the compliance step that actually holds a shipment depend on what you are sending — these guides cover that by commodity.

- [Arts & Crafts Toys, Sports, Outdoor & Leisure](#)
- [Artificial Plants Consumer Goods & Gifts](#)
- [Direct to Consumer E-commerce & Retail Channels](#)
- [Fasteners Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Pressure Vessels Metal Products & Industrial Components](#)
- [Industrial Boilers General Machinery & Industrial Equipment](#)
- [Solar Panel New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Lithium Battery New Energy, Power & Electrical](#)
- [Bicycle Parts Automotive & Vehicles](#)
- [Wall Panels Building Materials & Construction Products](#)
- [Corrugated Packaging Wood, Bamboo & Paper Products](#)
- [Glass Packaging Plastics, Rubber & Packaging](#)

[All 139 industry guides →](#)

Checking the Egypt duty position yourself

Duty and tax figures on this page are planning estimates. The binding assessment is made by Egyptian Customs Authority against your declared HS code at the time of entry; where the amount is material, verify the current rate through [ITC Market Access Map](#) before committing to an order.

Classification drives everything downstream: the same carton can attract very different duty depending on the heading it lands in, and the structure those headings come from is [the World Customs Organization Harmonized System](#). If your product sits near a boundary between two headings, resolve it before shipping rather than at the border.

For ocean cargo, restricted commodities move under [the IMO's IMDG Code](#), and the container has to be declared and stowed accordingly. Batteries, flammables and corrosives all have a compliant ocean path; what causes rolled bookings is finding out about them after the container is packed.

For a wider view of how importing into Egypt actually works — documentation norms, inspection behavior, the paperwork that tends to hold shipments — the [U.S. ITA guide to Egypt customs regulations](#) is a useful independent read alongside our own lane notes.

Watch: the process behind this route

This guide covers routing and clearance for Cairo. The video below covers the wider shipping process that sits around it.

Bills of Lading 101 - What Is a Bill of Lading — Flexport. Published on YouTube by a third party; we link it because it explains the process well, not because we produced it or endorse the provider.

Get a rate for Cairo

This lane is quoted per shipment rather than from a published rate card, because the landed cost depends on the commodity, its density, the conformity requirements above and the delivery point. Send the cargo details and we will come back with a full DDP figure.

[Request a quote](#) → [See the Egypt route page](#) →

Freight Rates to Egypt

☞ Cargo Weight (KG)

☐ Enter the actual gross weight of your shipment in kilograms. If you're unsure, fill in the volume fields below and we'll calculate it for you.

☐ Or enter volume (cm) — volumetric weight ÷ 6000

× ×

Non-integers rounded up. Larger of actual vs volumetric is used.

☐ Number of Boxes

Total chargeable weight = weight per box × number of boxes.

⚠ When you have not filled in the volume information, our prices may be inaccurate.

Cairo, Egypt Freight from China: Transit & Customs

Cargo from China to Cairo, Egypt clears through CAI air / Alexandria sea. Egyptian Customs Authority assesses duty and tax; the inland leg adds +1 day.

Get a Quote

Send the cargo details and we respond within one business day with a full DDP figure for Cairo.

[WhatsApp Us Send Inquiry →](#)

Cairo by Mode

- [All modes — Cairo](#)
- [✈ Air Freight](#)
- [🚢 Sea Freight](#)

Other Cities in Egypt

- [China to Giza](#)
- [China to Alexandria](#)
- [China to Port Said](#)
- [China to Sixth of October City](#)
- [China to Suez](#)
- [China to Mansoura](#)
- [China to Ismailia](#)

Other Africa Destinations

- [Shipping to Algeria](#)
- [Shipping to Burundi](#)
- [Shipping to Cape Verde](#)
- [Shipping to Comoros](#)
- [Shipping to Congo \(Brazzaville\)](#)
- [Shipping to Djibouti](#)
- [Shipping to Eswatini](#)
- [Shipping to Ethiopia](#)

Route Page

- [Egypt DDP route details →](#)

- [All freight destinations →](#)

Customs clearance in Egypt

Duty and tax position, certification, typical port dwell and what actually holds shipments at this border — plus who files the entry.

[Egypt clearance requirements →](#)

Priced routes to Egypt

- [Ningbo to Alexandria FCL Ocean Freight Rates | 20GP & 40HQ](#)
- [Shanghai to Alexandria Container Shipping — 20GP Rates](#)